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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE  
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SUBJECT: "2,4-D Notes"...Information from the plant scientists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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You may continue to use the back-bending method of getting the dandelions and plantains out of your lawn until after the war. But the new herbicide, 2,4-D, is coming to market in limited amounts. It's being put up in various weed killing preparations now.

In case you do find one of these preparations...you'll be interested in the latest findings on the chemical compound from the plant scientists of the United States Department of Agriculture. First...about the best time to use 2,4-D. You'll want to spray it on your lawn when the weather favors the growth of grass...say in the late spring or early fall. The extremely cold or hot dry periods aren't so good. While the weed killer gets to the roots of the weeds...it's been found that two treatments, about three months apart, may be necessary. The second treatment kills the seedling weeds that grow up after the first spraying.

Next...a couple of points you want to watch out about. After you've used a sprayer for 2,4-D...do not use it to spray your ornamentals or garden crops. Because the weed killer cannot be cleaned out of the sprayer easily...and even small amounts of it will endanger some kinds of useful plants. Since the chemical doesn't seem to hurt grain or grass crops..you can use the sprayer in treating them.

Also...be careful in using the weed killer near crops that may be injured...like beans, tomatoes and squash. The wind can carry the chemical over into your garden as you treat your lawn unless you guard against it.

Finally...2,4-D does not harm soil under already established lawns. But it should not be sprayed on bare soil...because it does affect the growth of crops planted there later.

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(7-26-45)

